UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/232
3 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the situation in Guinea-Bissau and to Security Council resolution 1216 (1998) of 21 December 1998, in which, inter alia, I was requested to make recommendations to the Council on a possible role of the United Nations in the process of peace and reconciliation in Guinea-Bissau, including the early establishment of arrangements for liaison between the United Nations and the Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

On the basis of recommendations of a United Nations multi-disciplinary mission dispatched in early December to Guinea-Bissau, I am pleased to propose that a United Nations Peace-building Support Office be established in Guinea-Bissau. The Office would be entrusted with the following mandate:

(a) To help create an enabling environment for restoring and consolidating peace, democracy and the rule of law and for the organization of free and transparent elections;

(b) To work with the Government of National Unity, ECOWAS and ECOMOG, as well as with other national and international partners to facilitate the implementation of the Abuja Agreement;

(c) To seek the commitment of the Government and other parties to adopt a programme of voluntary arms collection, disposal and destruction;

(d) To provide the political framework and leadership for harmonizing and integrating the activities of the United Nations system in the country, particularly during the transitional period leading up to general and presidential elections.

The above mandate responds to the needs of Guinea-Bissau as conveyed to the United Nations mission by the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity and is consistent with my report to the Security Council on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318), as well as with Security Council resolution 1170 (1998) of 28 May 1998.

In the light of the above, I recommend that the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau be headed by a Representative of the Secretary-General at the D-2 level. The Representative of the Secretary-General will be assisted by several political affairs and human rights officers, an electoral officer, a military adviser and support staff.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 26 February 1999 (S/1999/232) concerning your proposal to establish a United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They welcome the proposal contained in your letter.

(Signed) QIN Huasun
President of the Security Council

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